

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 DRC-01 /059 W

----- 008503

R 160756Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2995

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: LOCAL REACTION TO FNLA'S "CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES"

1. REACTION HERE TO THE FORMAL FNLA CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES WHICH TOOK EFFECT MIDNIGHT OCT. 14 HAS BEEN SUBDUED ALTHOUGH PORTUGUESE PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES (ROADBLOCKS, SEARCHES) HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY STRINGENT DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS. CONSIDERED A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY SINCE THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN KINSHASA OCT. 10 (AND A GOOD BET SINCE FNLA'S DE FACTO CEASE FIRE TWO WEEKS AGO), FNLA'S ACTION HAS SHIFTED ATTENTION HERE TO MPLA AND ITS CONINUING LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A TACIT CEASE FIRE BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY AND MPLA SINCE JULY NOTHING MORE FORMAL HAS YET BEEN AGREED UPON.

2. PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN LUANDA ARE NOT GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AN EARLY CEASE FIRE WITH MPLA, CONSIDERING THAT THE CEASE FIRE IS TO SOME EXTENT STILL A HOSTAGE TO THE CONTINUING LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE BETWEEN NETO AND CHIPENDA. HOWEVER, THEY DO FEEL THAT EVENTS ARE FINALLY MOVING TOWARD A SOLUTION. THERE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTS THAT CHIPENDA AND ANDRADE HAVE AGREED TO PERMIT NETO

(OR HIS DESIGNEE) TO REPRESENT MPLA IN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. SOME PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS HERE WOULD LIKE TO CUT NETO OUT AND DEAL WITH A CHIPENDA BACKED BY MOBUTU. HOWEVER, THEY ADMIT THAT THIS IS NOT A REALISTIC COURSE GIVEN NETO'S DIMINISHED BUT STILL POTENT MASS APPEAL. ANOTHER IMPEDIMENT TO THIS IS THE EXISTENCE OF SOME FERVENTLY PRO-NETO OFFICERS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND THE ANGOLAN JUNTA.

3. IT LOOKS FROM HERE THAT NETO WILL, AFTER SOME FURTHER DELAY, REALIZE THAT EXISTENCE AS THE LONE HOLDOUT IS UNTENABLE. HOWEVER, BEFORE NETO JOINS HE MAY WELL MAKE ONE LAST ATTEMPT TO GAIN CONTROL OVER HIS MPLA RIVALS.

4. SEPTTEL WILL DESCRIBE FNLA'S ACTIONS IN NORTHERN ANGOLA DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS.
KILLORAN

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